

**Assembly Joint Resolution**

**No. 14**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Atkins**

February 27, 2013

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Assembly Joint Resolution No. 14—Relative to sequestration.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AJR 14, as introduced, Atkins. Sequestration.

This measure would request the Congress of the United States to, among other things, act immediately to avert federal spending cuts known as “sequestration” to protect the California and national economies.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Without congressional action, a series of onerous  
2 across-the-board cuts called “sequestration” will severely  
3 compromise the nation’s and California’s emerging economic  
4 recovery and negatively impact California’s workers, families,  
5 and communities; and

6 WHEREAS, Through sequestration California will see a  
7 reduction in education funding of approximately \$87.6 million,  
8 putting nearly 2,000 primary and secondary education teacher and  
9 aide classroom positions at risk, including those of 760 teachers,  
10 aides, and staff who help children with disabilities; and

11 WHEREAS, California’s extensive military defense industry  
12 will be devastated with the loss of approximately 64,000 civilian  
13 Department of Defense jobs, and operational reductions by the  
14 Army, Air Force, and Navy totaling more than \$69 million; and

1 WHEREAS, Studies show that California will lose 336,000  
2 defense-related jobs across the state and more than \$21 billion in  
3 economic output if the \$4 billion in additional sequestration cuts  
4 are imposed on the state; and

5 WHEREAS, The nation's returning veterans will experience a  
6 reduction in the federal Transition Assistance Program, which  
7 serves more than 150,000 veterans, leaving thousands of  
8 transitioning veterans unserved as they move from active duty to  
9 civilian life; and

10 WHEREAS, The Secretary of the Department of Homeland  
11 Security warns that the automatic budget reduction mandated by  
12 sequestration would be disruptive and destructive to our nation's  
13 security and economy by effectively closing many of California's  
14 ports and border crossings during daily peak activity due to the  
15 reduction in customs and border protection officers; and

16 WHEREAS, The Federal Aviation Administration would be hit  
17 with a \$600-million cut, forcing a reduction in core functions  
18 leading to furloughs of one to two days for most of its 47,000  
19 employees, resulting in slower air traffic in California's major  
20 cities and delays and disruptions across the country during the  
21 critical summer travel season; and

22 WHEREAS, The specter of losing up to 2,100 food inspectors  
23 as a result of sequester cuts could lead to increased outbreaks of  
24 food-borne illness, presenting a serious threat to the public and  
25 putting families at risk and costing billions in lost food production;  
26 and

27 WHEREAS, The sequester cuts will result in significant negative  
28 impacts to public health and safety, including losing access to child  
29 care for disadvantaged and vulnerable children, which is essential  
30 for working parents, more than 15,000 children in California not  
31 receiving vaccines for diseases such as measles, mumps, rubella,  
32 and tetanus, and California's ability to respond to the outbreak of  
33 public health threats such as infectious diseases, natural disasters,  
34 and biological, chemical, nuclear, and radiological events will be  
35 diminished; and

36 WHEREAS, A long-term, bipartisan compromise that averts  
37 sequestration will protect the California and national economies  
38 and provide a balanced and thoughtful budget solution; now,  
39 therefore, be it

1     *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*  
2     *California, jointly,* That the Legislature urges the Congress of the  
3     United States to avert federal spending cuts known as  
4     “sequestration” to protect the California and national economies;  
5     and be it further

6     *Resolved,* That the Legislature of the State of California urges  
7     the Congress of the United States to act immediately to avert the  
8     economic crisis that would result from the onerous across-the-board  
9     federal spending cuts in education and public health and safety,  
10    which will prevent the job losses and threats to our security that  
11    would result from cuts to our national defense and honor and secure  
12    the welfare of the veterans’ programs serving the men and women  
13    who defend our county; and be it further

14    *Resolved,* That the Legislature of the of the State of California  
15    urges the Congress of the United States to pursue a balanced  
16    approach in seeking to close wasteful tax loopholes to protect the  
17    investments that are helping grow our economy and keep our state  
18    and nation safe; and be in further

19    *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
20    of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United  
21    States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the  
22    Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and  
23    Representative from California in the Congress of the United  
24    States.